

**Acton Commission on Disability  
Minutes May 11, 2005**

Present: J. Feasel, L. Franklin, E. Leary, B. Maimone, J. Nigro, B. Viola, Guest: Marisha Geis

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and amended to reflect the following changes:

- A motion was approved to make changes to the Bulletin Board on the main floor of the Town Hall. This was originally reported as a discussion only.
- Ed Leary was to contact Lauren Rosensweig regarding ideas for enhancing the visibility of the Commission in the community. It was reported that this conversation was to address issues of cuts related to the override.

Announcements & Correspondence

- Liza Huber of Acton Boxborough Regional School District, who was originally scheduled to join us this evening will join us on June 9<sup>th</sup> instead
- There is a proposal before the town to redesign/upgrade the strip of stores on Rt. 27 where Dunkin Donuts is located. We will keep in touch with Garry Rhodes as this project moves forward to ensure appropriate accessibility.

Old Business

Discussion of FY'05 Expenditures: There was a general discussion of possible expenditures that we should make in order to utilize our funds for this year.

- Rec. Dept. Commission members recalled a request from the Recreation Department last year for a pad under the picnic table and pea stones under the swings at the Elm St. playground, The commission approved a motion for the expenditure of funds for an additional adapted swing to be provided for the recreation department to place in one of the Acton playgrounds that does not already have such a swing.

- Dining Guides: Many of the Dining Guides have been distributed, and more could be ordered without any revisions. Brenda will investigate costs prior to the next meeting.
- Commission Brochures: A motion was approved to allocate funds to have Brenda make more copies of the Brochure.
- Universal Trail: There is currently no active work going on on the trail which we have also identified in the past for and expenditure
- Support for Leary Field Renovations: There was discussion about a way to support the renovations. A specific item for purchase that would enhance accessibility will have to be identified in order for us to provide support.

Community Visibility: Ed Leary had a conversation with Walter Foster regarding the communication of the Commissions message to the community. Mr. Foster has invited representatives of the Commission to attend the Selectmen's meeting on 5/23 in order to discuss this issue further. It was agreed that brochures should be brought for the meeting and using the basic information in our various commission summaries we should make a short presentation that would frame the discussion of enhanced community visibility. There was a brief discussion of creating a video presentation that could be aired on the local cable station.

Transportation: A communication has been received regarding the ease of use and safety of the cross walk at Rts. 111 and 27. Lisa will communicate with TAC regarding the cross walk at that location.

Bulletin Board: There was discussion of updating the Bulletin Board. It was suggested that we include photos of adapted skiing. We may also want to include sections of the newspaper article that was written on the building of an accessible apartment.

Housing Surveys: We have collected four surveys that will be forwarded to the Mass Rehab. Commission.

#### New Business:

Magazine Subscriptions: There is a new magazine called Access that the Commission may want to purchase. Lisa will bring a copy to the next meeting for our review. We have received our renewal notice for New Mobility, The Commission voted to approve purchase of a new 2 year subscription for the library at a cost of \$1.95

Nara Accessibility: A woman who is blind has contacted the Commission about her desire to being able to access the Nara pond. The commission members discussed the addition of a guide rope to foster utilization of the pond by individuals with vision challenges. Lisa will contact N. McShea to see if the Rec. Department would be interested in our purchasing a guide rope. Beatrice will also contact Mass. Commission for the blind to see if there are other resource ideas.

Impact of Override Failure: Lauren Rosensweig has communicated to the Commission that the only area affected will be related to capital expenditures. She will forward the Commission a summary of the areas affected. She will also alert us if any area related to disability issues impacted.

Oktoberfest Planning: Several ideas for Oktoberfest were discussed including development of a flyer that could be distributed by Commission members circulating through the crowd. Lisa will make a photo poster with an updated collage of photos of commission activities and projects. John will be asked whether he and his service dog can do a demonstration.

Summer Meeting: At our next meeting we should finalize plans for an August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Nigro  
Secretary